

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

16 February 1951

Mr. Clayton Fritchey, Director
Office of Public Information
Department of Defense
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fritchey:

Thank you for your letter of February 14th advising me of the plans for selecting speakers for the Armed Forces Day Program during the period 14-19 May. I appreciate your courtesy in giving me early warning on this; but, regret that I must ask to be excused from any speech making this year. In my present position as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the President has instructed me to avoid public appearances and, to the extent that the press will permit, "strive for anonymity".

I am very much aware of the special importance of Armed Forces Day this year and am sincerely sorry that circumstances will not permit me to contribute my share.

Sincerely,

~~SECRET~~

W. B. Smith

HJM/amk
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Col J F Bird
Natl War College

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Draft copy of the talk I gave
recently at the War College on
"Intelligence &
National Security"

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